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Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):Toshikazu Kikuchi, et al. ) Re: Information Disclosure  
 ) Statement  
Serial No.: 10/800,360 ) Group: not yet assigned  
 )  
Filed: March 12, 2004 ) Examiner: not yet assigned  
 )  
 ) Our Ref:B-3425RE 621782-5  
 )  
For: "INSERTING DEVICE FOR DEFORMABLE..." ) Date: October 25, 2006

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria VA, 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the Applicants' duty to disclose information which may be material to the examination of this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that the Examiner consider on the merits the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) before issuing the first Office Action on the merits. Copies of the U.S. patent documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) are not enclosed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a) (2) (ii). The documents listed were cited in a Japanese Office Action dated July 25, 2006 in connection with related Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-368390. A copy of the Office Action is enclosed herewith.

U.S. Patent No. 5,873,879 is the continuation of the parent to Japanese Patent JP09-506285. U.S. Patent No. 5,425,734 is the equivalent to Japanese Patent JP09-508810.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists.

The Applicants believe that this IDS is being submitted before the issuance of a first Office Action on the merits and before the issuance of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance. Therefore, no official fees should be due; and this IDS should be considered on the merits. If this IDS is being submitted after the issuance of the first Office Action on the merits and

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before the issuance of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, please contact the undersigned to authorize a payment of \$180.00 (or any other required amount), which is the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), if the Examiner believes that such a fee is due in order for this IDS to be considered on the merits.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. (Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.)

The person making this statement is the practitioner who signs below on the basis of information supplied by an individual associated with the filing and prosecution of this application (37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c)) and on the basis of information in the practitioner's file.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450", on October 25, 2006 by Guillermo Gonzalez.

  
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Respectfully submitted,

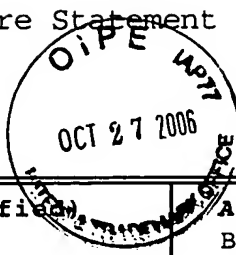


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Enclosures: Form PTO-1449 (modified) (1 page)  
Copy of Japanese Office Action

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Form PTO-1449 (Modification) Page 1 of 1	ATTY DOCKET NO. B-3425RE 621782-5	U.S. SERIAL NO. 10/800,360
LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS STATEMENT	APPLICANTS Kikuchi, et al.	
	FILING DATE March 12, 2004	GROUP not yet assigned

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE or 102(e) DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	5,873,879	2/1999	Figueroa, et al.	606	107	
	5,425,734	1/1995	Blake	606	107	

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO

**OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)**

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EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609: Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant